

Message Text

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11

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03

IO-15 DRC-01 /110 W

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R 051530Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1174

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR VT SY

SUBJECT: NEW SYRIAN AMBASSADOR TO HOLY SEE

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: IN HIS REMARKS DURING PRESENTATION CEREMONY
NEW SYRIAN AMBASSADOR MADE STRONG APPEAL TO POPE ON BEHALF OF
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND JERSUALEM.
POPE AVOIDED ENGAGING ISSUES IN HIS REPLY. END SUMMARY.

2. NEW SYRIAN AMBASSADOR TO HOLY SEE, SAMI DROUBI, IN HIS
ADDRESS TO POPE PAUL DURING PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS OCT 4
MADE IMPASSIONED APPEAL FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS, OCCUPIED ARAB
TERRITORIES, AND JERSUALEM. GIVING UNUSUALLY POLITICAL TONE
TO WHAT ARE NORMALLY ANODYNE REMARKS, AMBASSADOR NOTED
UNIVERSALITY OF CATHOLIC CHURCH AND INTERNATIONAL STRENGTH OF
ITS VOICE AS FEFENDER OF HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL MENT, REGARDLESS
OF CREED IN TRADITION INITIATED BY CHRIST. AMBASSADOR POINTED
OUT THAT "SYRIA AND OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES PRESENTLY SUFFERING A
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DEPLORABLE VIOLATION OF RIGHTS OF MAN. ARAB TERRITORIES ARE

SUCCESSIVELY INVADED AND OCCUPIED. PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ARE
DISPERSED; THEY LIVE MISERABLY IN TENTS. ONE IMPLORES THAT
THEIR RIGHTS TO EXISTENCE BE CONSIDERED, THAT ONE RESPECT THEIR
LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS TO SELF-DETERMINATION, WHICH WILL PERMIT
THEM TO TAKE THEIR PLACE IN FAMILY OF NATIONS." HE THEN COMMENTED
THAT "UN RESOLUTIONS ARE DEFIED AND JERUSALEM, THE HOLY CITY, IS
NO LONGER PLACE PAR EXCELLENCE OF UNIVERSALISM AS IT SHOULD BE."
AFTER RECALLING GREAT RESPECT ARABS ACCORD TO HOLY SEE, DROUBI
ASKED, "WOULD IT THEN SEEM STRANGE THAT OUR PEOPLE ATTACH A
VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SUPPORT WHICH YOUR HOLINESS ACCORDS
TO THEIR CAUSE BY RECALLING TO WORLD'S CONSCIENCE THAT PEACE
AND JUSTICE ARE INTIMATELY CONNECTED ONE TO THE OTHER, THAT
AGGRESSION IS IN NO ONE'S INTEREST, THAT SPIRIT OF UNIVERSALISM
AND NOT OF DISCRIMINATION MUST PREVAIL?" HE NOTED IN CONCLUSION
THAT "OUR PEOPLE EXPECT MUCH FROM HOLY SEE. MAY THE JUST AND
MERCIFUL GOD BLESS YOUR STRUGGLE FOR JUSTICE, LOVE, BROTHERHOOD
AND GENUINE PEACE IN INTEREST OF ALL MANKING."

2. POPE'S REPLY WAS CHARACTERISTICALLY DIPLOMATIC, AVOIDING
RESPONSE TO ANY OF THORNY ISSUES HIS GUEST HAD RAISED. BEYOND
NORMAL EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS, LOVE AND RESPECT FOR SYRIAN
NATION, HE LIMITED HIMSELF TO NOTING THAT NO PEOPLE CAN BE
EXCLUDED FROM SPIRITUAL FAMILY OF GOD, NOR FROM HUMAN FAMILY
OF MAN. EVERYONE HAS HIS FAITH AND RIGHT TO EXPRESS IT. BEAUDRY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC ACCREDITATION, HUMAN RIGHTS, AMBASSADORS, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME10730
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731047/aaaabiqi.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW SYRIAN AMBASSADOR TO HOLY SEE DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO
TAGS: PFOR, VT, SY, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005